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3 September 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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3 September 1963

DAILY BRIEF

South Vietnam: Saigon and other cities are calm and outwardly conditions have returned to near normal.

Over the week end the government further cut back curfew hours in Saigon, reopened some Buddhist pagodas, and announced the release of all arrested students. These moves are part of the regime's comprehensive effort to create an impression of order and unity.

The US Consul in the northern city of Hué reports that the local populace is bitter over the crackdown on the Buddhists but cowed by the regime's control measures. Buddhist and other non-Communist opposition to the government apparently has been crushed, and antigovernment demonstrations are unlikely in the near future.

The pattern of Viet Cong activity has shown no discernible change, but there has been an increase in the number of armed attacks during the past week.

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Laos: [Premier Souvanna is again trying to smooth the way for the Pathet Lao to resume an active role in the government.]

[Souvanna apparently hopes to restore a semblance of stability to the coalition before he departs on 9 September for an extended trip abroad. Phoumi Vongvichit, Pathet Lao minister of information, arrived in Vientiane last week with the terms on which Prince Souphanouvong, the Pathet Lao leader, says he would return himself.]

[Following meetings with Vongvichit, Souvanna has told Ambassador Unger that he believes the Pathet Lao are "coming around" and will be prepared to cooperate much more than in the past. Souvanna therefore has agreed to the formation of a tripartite police force in Vientiane, one of the conditions Souphanouvong had set for his return.]

[Souvanna hopes that General Phoumi, the rightist leader, will show "good faith" and support the creation of the new police force. Phoumi may agree to some token arrangement to satisfy Souphanouvong's conditions, but he is not likely to allow any such arrangement to undermine his control over the capital.]

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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: The Soviets will probably withdraw more military equipment from Cuba soon.

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Photography [redacted] shows 12 van trucks and 19 van trailers at the Santiago de las Vegas SAM assembly area which was used as a staging area last June before similar equipment was shipped from Cuba. [redacted]

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Iran: [redacted] Government pressure on civil servants and others to assure a sizable vote in the 17 September elections is producing widespread resentment, while religious fanatics are increasing their antigovernment agitation. The atmosphere in the key northwestern city of Tabriz is said to be explosive. Although the government is insisting publicly that the elections will not be rigged, the Shah has already chosen the candidates to be elected. [redacted]

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Haiti: The US Embassy believes President Duvalier may soon use his civil militia to provoke violence in Port-au-Prince as a pretext for further crackdowns on the opposition. Another possible objective would be to bring pressure on local businessmen to contribute funds and other support to the government. [redacted]

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Indonesia-Malaysia: Indonesian and Philippine observers arrived in Kuching, Sarawak on 1 September to witness the concluding phases of the UN survey which began on 26 August. The arrival of the observers after repeated delays resulted from a last-minute compromise with the UK over transportation arrangements and the composition of the Indonesian and Philippine teams. Indonesia apparently judged that further obstruction on its part would neither postpone the formation of Malaysia nor prolong the UN survey, but its basic policy of opposing Malaysia remains unchanged.

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